

1 Corinthians 2 - "The Mind of Christ"

Starter: What is the point of church? What do you get out of it?

Read 1 Cor 2:1-5

Paul went to Corinth but the suspicion is that people didn't like his message much, partly because he didn't deliver it well (see 2 Cor 10:1,10) and partly because God's wisdom confounded earthly wisdom, something the Greeks were steeped in.

Q. What was the one thing that Paul wanted them to get from his message?

Read 1 Cor 2:6-16

This is one complicated passage of Scripture with lots of theology not least that when the church believes in the gospel message (the wisdom of God eternally) his Spirit is imparted to us in place of our own "spirituality".

Q. What does Paul say about the wisdom of God?

Q. For whose glory did Jesus die on the cross?

(A rather obtuse question based on verse 8: What would have happened if everyone recognized that Jesus was God?)

Q. Does Christianity make sense (that God had to die)? Do we need to understand in order to believe OR do we believe in order to understand?

Paul's suggesting that belief comes first and then the Spirit reveals truth to us by identifying with our spirit (c.f. Rom 8:16, 12:2).

Paul's point in the first 2 chapters of 1 Corinthians is that there is disunity in the church because they're being selfish. Actually the common gospel and the fact that they have the same Spirit of God working in them should bring unity through, "Having the mind of Christ" (v16).

So selfishness brings disunity but having the mind of Christ brings unity. My thought (and you can disagree if you want) but the mind of Christ is summed up perfectly in the garden of Gethsemane, "Not my will but yours be done" (Luke 22:42). Therefore what brings unity is definitely not selfishness but self-giving-ness.

Q. What things are **we** inclined to do within the church which are selfish?

Paul says that the cross was for the glory of the church (v7).

Close: What is the point of church? What does God get out of it?